

MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks and Open Space Division Staff

FROM: John Etter (on behalf of Retired Eugene Parks & Recreation Employees)

DATE: January 24, 2015

SUBJECT: Renaming Washington-Jefferson Park to honor Edwin R. Smith

A group of eight retired Eugene Parks & Recreation employees who worked under Ed Smith propose that the Washington-Jefferson Park be renamed the Edwin R. Smith Park in his honor. We submit the following information as requested in the *Donation Guidelines, City of Eugene Parks and Open Space, APPENDIX A: NAMING POLICY FOR PARK LANDS AND FEATURES*.

Description of feature to be renamed:

Washington-Jefferson Park

Proposed name:

Edwin R. Smith Park

Description of reason(s) for the name change:

The Washington-Jefferson Park would not exist today if Ed Smith had not envisioned the potential for dual use of this highway corridor. The initial State highway design for the I-105 extension called for the highway to be built on a landfill, at a height going over the railroad tracks and 1st and 5th Avenues. Ed convinced the State that their solution would divide the neighborhood and be an eyesore. On the other hand a park space, partly sheltered from rain, would be something the State and the City could be proud of. Although Ed contributed to many other valuable projects during his career with the City, his effort to establish this unique park makes it especially worthy of bearing his name.

Extraordinary contribution of the individual to the community:

Ed Smith served the city of Eugene in many capacities from 1962 till his retirement in 1991. He was Director of Parks and Recreation from 1964 through 1980, and the Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services from 1988 to 1991. His versatility was particularly appreciated in the interim years as he was asked to step into managing the Conference and Hult Center construction after the the initial project

manager resigned. He then became Director of a new Facilities Management Department, then Director of Hult Center Operations.

Ed's leadership in planning and lobbying for funding measures resulted in the construction of a senior center, four regional recreation centers, two swimming pools, the start of the Ridgeline Park, extensions of park and open space along the Willamette River, and the acquisition and development of parks to keep up with a growing population. The National Recreation and Park Association recognized his early accomplishments in 1969 with a national first place gold medal award for program excellence for mid-sized cities.

Date of death:

November 13, 2014

Explanation of how renaming a park or feature would improve community awareness and historical perspective:

When the park was originally named Washington-Jefferson Park, that name was adopted by the Parks & Recreation employees because they couldn't come up with a better alternative to the streets that bounded it. It is clearly an improvement to remind people that outstanding individuals such as Ed Smith are why we have special places like our parks. At heart, it is the citizens who make a community what it is.

John Etter, on behalf of
Ernest Drapela
Louis Kroeck
Vic Martin
Carrie Matsushita
Dave Pompel
Doug Post
Marilyn Steele